

SET Bulletin

IFLA Education and Training Section

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International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Dear Fellow Professionals,

SET Bulletin wishes you a very HAPPY and professionally rewarding New Year 2016.

SET Bulletin is a platform to share news and events on LIS Education and Training from all over the world. This issue includes an article on LIS education in Nigeria. Message from the SET-Chairs and announcements regarding forthcoming activities in the domain of LIS education and training are also included. In this issue, you will also find report of ICIML: an international conference held in Pakistan.

SET Bulletin requests short article on LIS education scenario and news of LIS education and training events in your country. Please feel free to write to the editor for further details.

Happy browsing!

- Susmita Chakraborty

Editorial

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Warm welcome to the new Standing Committee members of SET (August 2015 onwards):

Chairs:

Primoz Junic (Slovenia) and **Suzanne Samir** (Egypt)

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Susmita Chakraborty, India

Information Coordinator:

Lisa D. Travis, United States

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LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG

Filiberto Felipe Martínez-Arellano, Convenor, Mexico

Chihfeng P. Lin, Secretary, Taiwan

Heartiest Congratulations to Gilliam Hallam (formerly, *SET Secretary*) **for becoming the Secretary of Division IV (Division of Support of the Profession)**

Message from the Co-Chairs:

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Primoz Juznic



Suzanne Samir

Dear colleagues,

We wish you, your families and all your beloved ones a happy 2016!

And welcome to all new SET members.

In 2015, the SET collaborated with the Library Theory and Research Section and the LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group into a very successful Open Session panel: "Quality assurance of Library and information science (LIS) programs".

The Open Session hosted 5 remarkable papers that showed different fruitful experiences around the world, and helped to exchange different ideas.

Also the collaboration with the LTR section and the LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group helped to cover the theme through many facets. There is no doubt about the importance of finding efficient solutions that guarantee the library and information science (LIS) education quality worldwide.

The three hour session focused on the accreditation of the education programs for future library and information professionals.

The panel discussion that followed the presentations raised many questions and concerns. Effectively, these concerns represent the main engine of the satellite meeting of the SET in 2016.

The IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET) and the Section on Library Theory and Research (LTR) are organizing this satellite meeting prior to the World Library and

Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio, with the support of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), OCLC, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The goal is to explore the feasibility of establishing an international means of assessing the quality of Higher Education educational programs for initial and continuing professional development of library and other information professionals.

The goal of such an international assessment protocol would be to support opportunities for cooperation and collaboration among higher education institutions worldwide, and to ensure the equivalency of degrees and certificates granted as well as learning experiences. This would result in a system that would permit reciprocity in educational programs internationally for both initial professional positions and continuing professional development of library and information professionals.

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In addition to the joint satellite meeting with the LTR, the SET is collaborating with the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section and the Information Technology Section in organizing the Open Session "All about E-Learning: Connection, Collaboration, Community", that will be held during the IFLA Congress in Columbus, Ohio, USA, from 13-19 August 2016.

This Open Session will put the spot on the increasing awareness about the prospective and important role of e-learning not only in LIS education but also in continuing education for professionals and in applying innovative services in order to reach new communities. Implementing powerful e-learning strategies in librarianship, academic, and practical sectors makes us think about the IFLA president's theme, "Call to Action." This call to action urges information technology personnel to work on the infrastructure for connecting all available and needed platforms serving this area.

E-learning/online education is a noteworthy tool for education and training in general and especially for librarianship and information science fields. Nowadays, the Internet is the best tool of information production in general; the education field has experienced significant gains due to the wide connections offered by the Internet. It currently facilitates a variety of services ranging from a quick virtual lecture to a comprehensive course or program that can offer new perspectives for scholars, professionals, and community members.

This session's goal is to provide complementary coverage of new techniques, infrastructure, and academic and professional aspects of e-learning.

We are very proud of the collaborative work we had in 2015 and the more collaborative work we have for IFLA Congress Columbus, Ohio, USA, from 13-19 August 2016.

Best wishes,

IFLA SET Co-chairs,

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Suzanne Samir
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Forthcoming events:

1. iConference 2016

March 20-23, 2016, Philadelphia, PA; Conference theme:

"Partnership with Society"

<http://ischools.org/the-iconeference/>

2. AL4, Academic Librarian 4

June 2-3, 2016, Hong Kong

Conference theme: "Sustainable Academic Libraries: Now and Beyond" <http://library.ust.hk/al4/>

3. Distance Teaching and Learning Conference;

August 9-11, 2016, Madison, WI;

<https://dtlconference.wisc.edu/>

4. 82nd IFLA World Library and Information Congress;

August 13-19, 2016, Columbus, OH;

Conference theme: "Connections, Collaboration, Community";

<http://2016.ifla.org/>

5. ALIA 2016 National Conference

August 29 - September 2, 2016, Adelaide, South Australia;

Conference theme: "Engage - Create - Lead";

<https://nationalconference.alia.org.au/>

6. EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2016;

October 25-28, 2016, Anaheim, CA;

<https://www.educause.edu/annual-conference>

7. E-Learn--World Conference on E-Learning;

November 14-16, 2016, Washington, DC

Topics: e-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education

<http://www.aace.org/conf/elearn/all.htm>

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Library and Information Science Education in Nigeria

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Abstract: The paper traces the history, current situation, challenges and future prospects and directions of library and information science (LIS) education in Nigeria

Keywords: LIS education, Nigeria, Curriculum development, History, National Universities Commission

Introduction: Nigeria is geographically located on the coast of western Africa. Covering an area of about 924,000 square km, it is bordered on the north by Niger Republic, on the east by Chad and Cameroon, on the south by the Gulf of Guinea, and on the west by the Republic of Benin. The country has a rich and diverse history in education and culture. Education for library and information science (LIS) is a significant factor for the provision of appropriate manpower in library and information sector, and for successful library and information operations and services. Furthermore, it is imperative to note that education for LIS has taken a dramatic turn in the face of fundamental changes sparked off by the developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the new trend towards globalization. Accordingly, the library and information science profession in Nigeria, just like in other countries has been significantly and continuously been affected by these changes which is conspicuous in the area of education and training received by the would-be-graduates. However, due to enormity of challenges, especially in relation to low level of technological development, more is needed in shaping LIS education and training to meet up with the global

best practices and requirements. This paper attempts to trace the development of LIS education in Nigeria, its current status and challenges. The concluding segment of the discourse constitutes a submission for the way forward.

The Historical Perspective: The history of library and information science (LIS) education in Nigeria can be traced back to the 1953 UNESCO organized seminar on the "Development of Public Libraries in Africa" held at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. The seminar recommended, among other things, the establishment of an institution for professional library training in Africa.

However, the beginning of real education for LIS in Nigeria, started with the establishment of the first Library School in 1959 at the University College Ibadan, (as it was then called). The School was established with the assistance of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and began with a Diploma in librarianship meant for graduate students. The LIS Schools is later on known as the Department of Library, Archival, and Information Studies.

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LIS Education in Nigeria _ continued

Furthermore, the second school of librarianship in Nigeria was opened at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1968 after F.A. Sharr's 1963 report and recommendations. The LIS School started with an undergraduate programme. Aside the two schools of librarianship in Nigeria, other library schools were afterward opened at various universities, which are: Bayero University, Kano (1977); University of Maiduguri (1978); Imo State University (1981); and University of Nigeria Nsukka (1983). Indeed, the beginning of the 1990s witnessed the rapid increase of LIS schools in Nigeria. Presently, there are 25 LIS schools in Nigerian universities offering various programmes at one level or the other (LRCN, 2014). In addition, according to Issa et al (2014) the pattern of growth in the number of library schools in Nigerian universities had been amply replicated in Nigerian polytechnics and to a lesser extent, in colleges of education.

Current Status

A serious discussion on the current status of LIS education in Nigeria will agree with the fact that, LIS education or training at whatever level has twofold dimensions i.e. professional and academic angles, both of which are important in the present day LIS education and training. It is however important to note that the emergence of LIS education in Nigeria is generally linked with the expansion and establishment of different types of libraries in the country that necessitates the need for professionally trained personnel to manage those libraries.

Generally, LIS educational programmes whether university or non-university based are expected to be in compliance with certain minimum standards as set out by different regulatory bodies. For example, in respect of university based LIS programmes, the National Universities Commission (NUC) has set minimum academic standards (MAS) for all undergraduate LIS education in Nigeria. However, with the recent advancements in all facets of LIS education, the NUC MAS appears to be out-of-date and out of context as well. Furthermore, there is hardly any discourse on LIS education in Nigeria among the LIS community without reference to the conferences organized by the National Association of Library and Information Science Educators (NALISE). It is important to note that over the years, a number of such NALISE conferences had been organized and held in different places, the latest been the one that was hosted by the University of Uyo in 2015. In such conferences, various resolutions were taken regarding LIS education in the country. Nonetheless, despite that matters relating to curriculum development, nomenclature, location of LIS departments, improved minimum academic standards, facilities and resources, quality assurance, Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) are still being debated. It is important to note that some of the LIS schools in Nigeria are housed under faculties of Education while some are under Social and Management Sciences, etc. While in respect of nomenclature for the LIS programmes, the degrees/diplomas are named variously as approved by the regulatory bodies. They include among others, Bachelor of Library and Information Science

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LIS Education in Nigeria _ continued

(BLIS), Bachelor of Arts (Library and Information Science (B.A. LIS), Bachelor of Science (Library and Information Science (B.Sc. LIS), Bachelor of Library Science/Studies (BLS), Master of Library Science/Studies (MLS), Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D). Similarly, polytechnic-based LIS programmes have National Diploma and Higher National Diploma in library and information science. In terms of employment, the job prospects of LIS graduates continues to be brighter especially with the recent increase in the number of universities in the country i.e. both public and private.

Challenges

- Crisis of Nomenclature and organizational placement.
- Inadequate infrastructure, teaching tools and resources.
- Shortage of LIS faculty and low ICT skills among LIS faculty.
- Inadequate collaboration, exchange and linkages programmes.
- Non-challant attitude of LIS professional bodies to LIS education in the country.
- Lack of involvement of stakeholders in LIS curriculum development.

The Way Forward

- The need to resolve the crisis of nomenclature and the placement of LIS programmes.
- Adequate provision of infrastructure, teaching tools and resources.
- Recruitment of qualified LIS faculty especially those with ICT skills.
- The need for collaboration and linkages programmes both within and outside the country.
- The need for LIS professional bodies to become proactive and assertive.

- Proper involvement of all critical relevant stakeholders in curriculum development.

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Conference Report from Pakistan : International Conference on Information Management and Libraries (ICIML), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, November 10-13, 2015; reported by Syeda Hina Bataal



Images: International Gathering



ICIML Inauguration Ceremony: Faculty with Chief

Department of Information Management at University of the Punjab turns 100 years old in 2015 and a number of special events were planned to mark the occasions including International Conference on Information Management and Libraries (ICIML) held on November 10-13, 2015 at University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. The theme of this centennial celebration conference was: "Looking back,

Moving Forward". The response of the LIS professionals was very overwhelming with 450 registered delegates from all over the country besides foreign delegates including invited guest speakers from Asia (Malaysia, Singapore, Bangladesh, India), Middle East (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait), Africa (Nigeria), Europe (Turkey, France), UK and USA were in attendance.



Prof. Sanda Erdelez



Prof. Yasar Tonta



Prof. Widad Mustafa



Prof. Kanwal Ameen

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Three key Note Speeches were delivered by Prof. Sanda Erdelez (USA), Prof. Yasar-Tonta (Turkey) and Prof. Widad Mustafa El Hadi (France). Prof. Kanwal Ameen was the Conference Chair.

ICIML2015: continued

Three parallel pre-conference workshops were conducted on November 10, 2015. The topics of these workshops were 1: Strategic planning; 2: Data mining; and 3: Communication skills. All three workshops were very well attended and appreciated.

Eighty authors contributed 57 presentations including 3 key note speeches, 13 invited papers, 15 full

papers, 9 short papers, 7 best practices and 10 short presentations (PechaKuchas) on the following topics: Education and training, Best Practices, Information literacy, Library Management Practices, Bibliometric and Citation Analysis, Professional Development, Digital Libraries and E-Resources, Web Technologies and Social Media.



The conference also included cultural/music night on November 12, 2015 as well as a visit to Lahore Shahi Qila and Mosque.